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a plurality of eligible member user telephone sets disposed for simultaneous communication over said plurality of channels, each of said eligible member user telephone sets including means for generating one of said talk request signals, at least some of said eligible member user telephone sets being connected to the private communication network through a wireless communications system.

2. The private communication network of claim 1 wherein said controller means including means for identifying said selected one of said plurality of channels by choosing among ones of said talk request signals received over corresponding ones of said plurality of channels.

3. The private communication network of claim 1 wherein a selected one of said plurality of authorized telephone sets includes:

vocoder means for digitally processing input information in order to produce a sequence of vocoder data packets, and

modem means for generating said information signal using said vocoder data packets.

4. The private communication network of claim 3 wherein said modem means includes means for multiplexing said talk request signal with said vocoder data packets and for using the result during formation of said information signal.

5. The private communication network of claim 1 wherein said controller means includes means for verifying that said information signal received over said selected one of said plurality of channels was generated by a given one of said plurality of authorized telephone sets.

6. The private communication network of claim 5 wherein said controller means includes means for configuring said telephone network interface to call other ones of said authorized telephone sets subsequent to receipt by said network call manager of said information signal from said given one of said plurality authorized telephone sets.

7. The private communication network of claim 1 further including wireless network means for operatively coupling one of said plurality of authorized telephone sets to a corresponding one of said plurality of channels.

8. The private communication network of claim 1 wherein each of said plurality of authorized telephone set includes means for generating an encrypted signal by encrypting an information signal provided by one of said member users, said encrypted signal being transmitted over a corresponding one of said plurality of channels.

9. The private communication network of claim 8 wherein each of said plurality of authorized telephone sets includes means for recovering one of said information signals from one of said encrypted signals transmitted over a corresponding one of said channels.

10. In a communication system in which users communicate through a switched telephone network, a network call manager for facilitating private communication simultaneously among a plurality of member user telephone sets, at least some of said member user telephone sets being connected to the private communication network through a wireless communications system, said network call manager comprising:

a telephone network interface for establishing a telephone connection with each of a plurality of said member user telephone sets, including at least a plurality of said member user telephone sets that are connected to the private communication network through the wireless communications system, over a corresponding plurality of channels of said switched telephone network;

a switch matrix, coupled to said telephone network interface, for providing an information signal received over a selected one of said plurality of channels simul-

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taneously to other ones of said plurality of channels via said telephone network interface; and

controller means for configuring said switch matrix in response to control information received over at least one of said plurality of channels.

11. The network call manager of claim 10 wherein said controller means includes a controller for selecting said selected one of said plurality of channels in response to a talk request signal received over said selected one of said plurality of channels.

12. The network call manager of claim 11 further including wireless network means for establishing communication between at least one of said member users and said switched telephone network.

13. The network call manager of claim 12 wherein said controller means includes arbitration means for choosing said selected one of said plurality of channels on the basis of talk request signals received from ones of said member users over corresponding ones of said plurality of channels.

14. The network call manager of claim 13 wherein said controller means includes means for informing ones of said member users via corresponding ones of said plurality of channels of the identity of a selected member user providing said information signal over said selected one of said plurality of channels.

15. The network call manager of claim 14 wherein said controller means includes means for informing at least one of said member users via a corresponding one of said plurality of channels of the identities of ones of said member users associated with corresponding ones of said plurality of channels.

16. In a private communication network system in which users communicate through a switched telephone network, a method for facilitating private communication among a plurality of eligible member user telephone sets, at least some of said eligible member user telephone sets being connected to the private communication network through a wireless communications system, said method comprising the steps of:

establishing a telephone connection between a network call manager and each of a plurality of telephone channels of said switched telephone network, each of said plurality of telephone channels being associated with one of said plurality of eligible member user telephone sets;

providing an information signal received at said network call manager over a selected one of said plurality of telephone channels from an active one of said eligible member user telephone sets simultaneously to a plurality of other ones of said eligible member user telephone sets over other ones of said plurality of telephone channels;

generating talk request signals substantially simultaneously at a plurality of said eligible member telephone sets for transmission to said network call manager via said switched telephone network; and

choosing said active eligible member user telephone set on the basis of said talk request signals received at said network call manager.

17. The method of claim 16 further including the step of identifying said selected telephone channel by choosing among ones of said talk request signals received over corresponding ones of said plurality of telephone channels.

18. The method of claim 16 further including the steps of digitally processing information from said active member user in order to produce a sequence of vocoder data packets for modem transmission to said network call manager.

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19. The method of claim 16 further including the step of coupling said information signal from said active member user through a wireless communication network to said selected one of said plurality of telephone channels.

20. The method of claim 16 further including the steps of:  
 encrypting information signals generated within the one  
 of said plurality of telephone sets associated with said  
 active member user;

transmitting the encrypted information signals to said  
 network call manager; and

decrypting the encrypted information signals received  
 from said network call manager at the ones of said  
 plurality of telephone sets associated with said other  
 ones of said member users.

21. In a communication system in which users commu-  
 nicate through a switched telephone network, a private  
 communication network for facilitating communication  
 among a plurality of member user telephone sets, said  
 private communication network comprising:

a network call manager including:

a telephone network interface for establishing a tele-  
 phone connection with each of a plurality of tele-  
 phone lines of said switched telephone network, each  
 of said plurality of telephone lines being associated  
 with one of said plurality of member user telephone  
 sets,

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a switch matrix, coupled to said telephone network  
 interface, for providing an information signal received  
 over a selected one of said plurality of telephone lines  
 simultaneously to other ones of said plurality of tele-  
 phone lines via said telephone network interface, and

controller means for configuring said switch matrix in  
 response to talk request signals received over said  
 plurality of telephone lines; and

a plurality of eligible member user telephone sets, at least  
 some of said eligible member user telephone sets being  
 connected to the private communication network  
 through a wireless communications system, disposed  
 for simultaneous communication over said plurality of  
 telephone lines, each of said eligible member user  
 telephone sets including means for generating one of  
 said talk request signals.

22. The private communication network of claim 21  
 wherein said controller means including means for identi-  
 fying said selected telephone line by choosing among ones  
 of said talk request signals received over corresponding ones  
 of said plurality of telephone lines.

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